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2/8/02  
T. Gray  
#9A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Atty Docket No. VER001US)

RECEIVED

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Serial No.: 09/616,283  
Filed: 14 July 2000  
Inventors: Goodnow  
Title: SYSTEM FOR DETECTING BACTERIA IN BLOOD PRODUCTS  
AND FLUIDS OF TISSUES  
Group Art Unit: 1645  
Before the Examiner: J. Hines

\*\*\*\*\*  
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal  
Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner For  
Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date set forth below.

27 December 2001  
Date of Signature and of Mail Deposit

By W. A. Keown  
Wayne A. Keown

\*\*\*\*\*  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**APPLICANTS' REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED 27 SEPTEMBER 2001**

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed 27 September 2001. This reply is due 27 December 2001. Please re-consider the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks:

AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(i), please delete the paragraph appearing at page 34, lines 21-28, and replace it with the following paragraph: